

# **Chrysalis**

## **lessons from a life too late to fully live**

**A FREE E-book**

**Of selected poetry, photographical graphics arts, and  
ruminations of mine**

**Michael Jeffrey Slebodnick**

**Also known as**

**Mister “S” (or Should be Dr. S”)**

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## About the Author

Michael Jeffrey has been many things, and had humble work beginnings, until finding his true passion, late in life. He started off working on a garbage collecting crew, something now called in a PC manner “Sanitation Engineer.” Later, he worked various summer jobs doing maintenance and janitorial work, whilst an undergrad student. After getting his undergrad degree much later than expected, due to being a lousy student whom suffered from a complete lack of vision as to what to do with the rest of his life, he was not accepted into Grad school immediately following his attainment of his BS degree. So, he had to work, and became interested in field work, most notably a long experience working as an engineer, a surveyor’s helper (lousy one at that), a geologist, and environmental consultant. Yet, he never really found his calling, until he went back to school for a grad degree and became a teacher. That has been his passion since his mid 30s, and continues to fuel his desire to educate the world, with his preference being working with K-12 kids, geosciences courses, or teachers prep courses. He has an avid hobby in photography, and has taught for free with outreach programs in 3 states at the K-12 level.

His most important goal today, is to find his Mrs. “S”, those whom can meet his needs to be a first time wife, and start a family with her – the kind he has sought since he was in college his second year, from the time he turned 18 on.... A goal that has been close, but elusively un-met, especially once he turned 40, which has only proved the search for the fertility and college aged women he has sought completely affirmed as his only goal left in life.

The author believes in a FREE Economic system, unfettered by the limitations the artificial concept of money forces humanity to deal with. Getting rid of money will free the human soul to pursue their dreams, and work in jobs they have the passion for, no more will people work just for a paycheck, often at the detriment of the services provided. As such, this e-book, is offered FREE, and if anyone asks you to pay for it, do not do so, for he will give it to anyone on earth whom wants to read for free ! This offer is his way of “walking the talk” of a truly free market economy, unfettered by the concepts of profit, payroll, stocks, or credit/loans.

The work here in, is all original, all mine, except where noted. He greatest honor of all, though, goes to God for giving me a second life, and to Jesus, Dr, Martin Luther King, Jr for his courage and non violent principles, and to my mom and my dad.

## Table of Contents

About the Author .....	2
Foreward .....	6
Implicit Versus Explicit language – what really is even the question? .....	9
Interlude .....	19



SLEBODNICK

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER 2.0

DREAMS ARE.....	22
The Light Turns on .....	23
What's the Point any more? .....	32
SCHOOL IS.....	36
On Intolerance .....	40
What am I? .....	41
Tribute to Alaska.....	43
The answer is biology .....	47
This small planet .....	49
Humor.....	51
Tuning.....	53
I was thinking one day in the merry mery month of... May .....	54
Imagine if... ..	57
Silence.. ..	59
On war.....	61
The problem with any war is – the idea of war itself.....	62
The Way of the Light .....	64

## Foreward

Life is a wonderful gift from God. This world, this place we live in, is an amazing creation. When one thinks of the deeper meaning, when science tells us, that everything we see in our world, the trees, the birds, the bees, the animals, the rocks, the sky, the clouds, the inner core of the earth, this computer I am typing the words on, and you and I, are all made, of the same basic building blocks. Only a slightly different recipe separates you and I, from some rock beneath our feet, the air we breathe, the birds and insects flying around, and the lights above in the upper atmosphere doing their nightly dance above the Arctic. Given the reality of the unreality of such beauty of the environment we observe, and the sameness within all living and even amongst those things we consider not to be alive (like rock, planets, stars, and galaxies), why then, does it seem, we are in constant battle with ourselves, each other, and nature? This recognition that a problem exists, in our relationship with each other, the environment, and all that is, here and beyond, brings me often to tears, and has moved me to write these words, first on my variety of blog sites, and now in this manuscript.

Having had the epiphanies I have been blessed with, I have discovered so much beauty inside each of us, and in the mere existence of the place we inhabit. And it is only through acknowledging just how far I have progressed, knowing how far I have travelled, from a self centered, materialistic, defiantly oppositional, arrogant, careless, human, subject to many of the learned behaviors that so plague the human species in negative ways. What I offer here, is hope, the proof being in my presence and in these words, that humanity can evolve, and we can move beyond old school , outdated, intolerant, ignorant, and just plain mean modes of thoughtlessness, towards a more enlightened universal global perspective on living life.

By no means, is mine the only path; I am not arrogant to even contemplate such a notion. It is with humbleness and observation, that I offer my own perspectives, as metamorphosed through the variety of lenses I have observed my surroundings with. With each lens change, the view the world presents, is different than the previous view, and it is only when being open to different modes, to think outside the box, and go beyond conventional thought, insight, and philosophies, that a rounding can occur, though not a true sphere by any sense of imagination. To truly create, an inner sense of the complete world view, all that humanity has to offer, would require access to the 7 billion souls and minds this planet now supports (or, at least we pretend we support all 7 billion, when in fact, 1 out of 7 people on earth go hungry on any given day). So, even in my flirtations with suggestions, reflections, and ruminations on human life, I am keenly aware, my lens, is completely biased, from my own life experiences, and therefore, cannot begin to apply to all everywhere. It is in knowing this limitation, accepting it, and expressing my desire to be more fully complete in my journey of evolution, that what is written here, may contrast with current world views, here at home, and elsewhere on earth. Rather though, than debate as to the validity of my views, the applicability to all or, even whether what I write has any value at all, I merely offer one small phrase to sum up my offer –

“How can anyone, truly, inside, understand, another human mind, completely, all its’ thoughts, its motivations, its dreams, its desires, its fears, the full range of human emotion each human has, unless, one tries to learn... either through asking questions, observing, listening, the proverbial walking in the other’s shoes, or, reading this book. Learning is a lifelong process, and can often take place, when things are the most uncomfortable, for that is when change is more likely to occur, inside, than if we simply never stray from our comfort zone... be not afraid to explore.”







### Implicit Versus Explicit language – what really is even the question?

“That’s one small step for man\*, one giant leap, for mankind,” Neil Armstrong, July 1969

Those words resonate through my core, for these are amongst my first memories of being alive, though I can remember snippets of dreams from all the way back to when I was 2 years old. The landing of man on the moon, was a historical event, and shaped the direction of my entire life since, a life of interest in all things science, of exploration – of boundaries inner and outer, and an allegory for my own journey to reach for the stars up in the heavens, only to find the inner stars more rewarding. Those words, also lock in, a mindset, of gender bias, that in that mere utterance, failed to give credit to ½ the entire world’s population, a understanding that is unrealized in many nation/states on earth, even today, with civil rights, educational opportunities, and equality in so many ways, not offered to women, for the sole accident of their gender at birth. The human species, may have reached the moon, but in many respects, we are still old school in our thinking, with the result being needless suffering and abuses that violate the very freedom human beings inherent as a birthright, yet whose rights are often taken away, by governments, entities, and people, with their own selfish self serving interests. If the human species wants to be successful, to continue to exist, to proliferate throughout the solar system and beyond, the old ways of thinking must be reassessed, to be questioned as to their legitimacy, and be adapted, modified, or upon failure to adapt, be tossed out, as an unworkable approach to long term human survival, happiness, and freedom. If human beings continue to use violence, physical means, and weapons of force to solve problems, disputes, differences, questions over economics, ideologies, religions, or governments, the human species will never know peace, will never be successful long term, and will only end up being here as a footnote in the geological record. In fact, our boot prints on the

moon, could potentially outlast all of us, if we do not evolve beyond impulse, and action without thought to consequences, and the concept of getting back or controlling others. In a world with nuclear weapons, cyber warfare, nuclear power plants, toxic environments, and global warming, we are the only species on the planet, whom decides each and every single day, the fate of our entire existence here, along with the existence of many other life forms here, on a 24/7 365 day a year basis, to live or die, by our own swords, technology, or ignorance in ruining the climate.

It's a question about "perspective"

Take this one simple statement –

"Nuclear weapons, are the umbrella, that protect us, and keep the peace..."

What is the 1<sup>st</sup> reaction that comes to mind? Depends, entirely, upon the lens through which you have lived your life. This one statement, can be interpreted in completely different manners, often contradictory to each other. To me, if one just looks at the words alone, and not the emotive, the language itself, human psychology says we all assign different meanings to the words alone. If we then add in the emotive to the mix, the chances of identical views on this one simple sentence, changes to a less mutualityness. Given 100 people, from the United States of America, and you would find a difference of opinion about the validity of this statement. Such differences of opinion can be found, amongst genders, across ethnic groups, and across age samples, as well as perhaps, service background experience. If I claimed to say, unequivocally, there is but one way to interpret this sentence, even if I explicitly state what I mean by it, there still would be alternative views or understandings. Now, ask a random 100 person sample from say, North Korea, whose nation is trying to perfect the bomb, after 2 nuclear tests already. Or, ask 100 random people from Hiroshima, Japan, or even

**Fukushima Prefecture. You will likely obtain completely different results.**

**There is no “true” means to actually diagnose and interpret exactly what the words as written mean, even if other factors are explicit, given, that the only one whom actually knows for sure, is the one whom wrote them in the 1<sup>st</sup> place.**

**Now, take the next sentence I offer and tell me what you think you know I mean..**

**“Hey! Leave that pot alone!”**

**Analyze the words, try to discern their meanings, and what if any emotive force is behind it. To you, what does the phrase mean? Why is it being said? What is the desired outcome of the words used? How does the person using those words feel? What do they want? How does the person hearing the words feel? Will they do as told? Would you? Do you even know what the words even actually mean?**

**How many of you, upon reading the words, thought of perhaps, some potentially illegal substance (pot, also known as marijuana?) Or, how many of you thought the pot, was something you cook with? How many of you saw these words, as a pot to put flower in?**

**Get the idea? There are numerous ways to even interpret what the words used even are referring to, let alone what else is going on. What is missing, is something called “context.” Context is either implicit, or explicit. In this case, the sentence offers little clues as to answer the question as to what physical form the word “pot” is referring to. However, even without knowing the word meaning, it can be inferred, and is explicit, from the exclamation marks, that whatever the pot is, someone does not want someone else to be doing something to or with it. One does not know, from the sentence alone, if someone was trying to pick it up, move it, turn it upside down, add water to it, or cut it? Again, there is no explicit**

information to accurately ascertain the exact meaning, without guessing based upon your own personal framework, and perhaps, some pre-existing info that is missing from the sentence, like the potential it could be a pot of boiling water with pierogies in it – or not!

These sentences to me, highlight a significant problem, that educator theorists and philosophers have been thinking about, of how the mind knows what we think we know. Research into knowing about knowing, is known as the phrase “epistemology,” as well as metacognition. To me, these two sides of a coin, deal with concepts about thinking, thinking about thinking, and research into how we think about thinking. This is important, for in a global society, with thousands of years of literature and historical and religious texts, as well as 7 billion people on earth, there is plenty of room for misunderstandings amongst many. It is often, questions as to the meanings of things written long ago, that lead to debates over ideologies that have echoed through millennia. Instead of trying to say that the sentence refers to pot as in an illegal substance only, and that’s the only way to correctly interpret it, one must be keenly and constantly aware, that there are alternative views whose rational reasoning may prove as equal to those whom say it must be my way of interpreting things. To me, psychology, really can help in these forms of debates, for it can shed light on the motivations each person brings to the table when told, reading, or viewing something.

Some have gone so far, as to suggest, that in education, there really is no such thing as “absolute truth” in things related to language, ideas, concepts, and so on, other than the mere empirical symbols themselves, that each human mind may not get the exact same 100.000000000000000000% intent of what one says.... This makes the jobs of politicians, easy and difficult at the same time. If one takes a clear cut stand on a given issue, then the number of possible interpretations would be small in number, but if one offers an obfuscated viewpoint, one that is muddy, not clear as to the intent of

an answer, then such a nebulous answer can be interpreted literally in many many ways. This can be either good or bad, good in that those whom may not actually agree with the hidden implied answer, though might not see the implicitness, and therefore conclude, erroneously, that you agree with their own views, which might pick a vote up you otherwise would not have gotten. However, the inverse may also be true too, in that a diffuse answer may not provide explicitly enough of a confirmation of evidence you support the view someone else wants you to, and you end up losing a vote. This is the amazing nature of a language that is inexact, the psychology of implicitness or explicitness, and the different perspectives we view all things from. This is just the kind of quandary that comedians understand on a deep level in coming up with their source material, resulting in humorous, though dichotomic conditions between the expected and the absurd. I believe George Carlin and Gallagher were comedic geniuses with respect to the English language and the difficulties inherent in a language that has way too many problems with implicitness or explicitness necessities.

While the confusion over meanings of words, can lead to humor, laughter, and good times, the opposite, sad, and horrific can occur too, over exactly the same kinds of issues over interpretation.

You see a sign, attached to a water pump, with a hose at the end of the pump. Thinking the sign says the water is fine and free, you go ahead and fill up the 5-gallon water jug with the water, and commence to drink it over the next week, and even share it with your fellow geology students on the field trip we all were taking. It's not until you get to the emergency room at the hospital, before you realize, the words in the sign, in plain English, words though never seen, and therefore had no idea what they meant, were actually telling you that the "non potable water" sign means – not fit for human consumption – don't drink this stuff! The resulting digestive issues and diarrhea I had as a result, were due to 2 issues – one, the

sign makers assumed I knew what the words “non potable” either explicitly meant, or, knew enough to understand implicitly what they meant.

So, whom is to blame? If it me for being not educated enough to know what non-potable water means? And if the failure is my education, whom further is to blame – me, as a student, my parents, my teachers, the curriculum, the standards? Or, is it those whom created the sign and thought of the words to use in their failure to see that not everyone even knows what those words mean? Is that a failure of their lens to be sufficiently broad enough to see beyond their own experiences and lexicography, to think outside their box of life experiences and step into the world and mind of someone whom does not share the knowledge of the words used they do? Or, is the whole concept of “blame” itself an issue that should not even be thought of. Before you answer that question, let me offer a few other variables to consider. If one considers someone to be at fault, then there usually then is pressure from someone, to prevent such an event from occurring again, or, to adapt and modify the conditions that exist so that others faced with the same thirst as I, do not make the mistake I made. In other words, there could be a call for increased attention to spelling, or to more rounded environmental curricula, or more global issues taught, or, maybe survival skills. See, just in trying to rectify an imagined problem, that of why did I fail to deduce correctly the “true” meaning of the sign, could we be over reacting, or stepping on toes of others, and lead to unintended consequences?

Perhaps, instead of placing blame on others, I should simply take ownership of the problem, learn from it, and pass on my understandings to others, so they too do not make the mistaken belief I had in the purity and essence of the water (hmm Dr. Strangelove line).



Perhaps, it would be easier to change the sign, to change the message from “non potable water”, to “don’t drink this water.” To me, the phrase I suggest in replacement, is quite clear as to the direction not to drink it, though it clearly says nothing about why not to drink it.

What if, as a result of my ignorance, someone, or even me, got so sick from the water, that I died, or someone else drinking the water did? What then? Human nature, often is afflicted with the concept of revenge, of getting back, or hurting others or making them pay. You know, the classic eye for an eye stuff, or incarceration – i.e. crime and punishment, or suing, or stoning, or other forms of even more violent reaction. Psychologists have proven that when they observe brain wave patterns in volunteers observing (not even actively engaged in – simply being passive observers) acts of vengeance and punishment, that areas within the human mind light up that are closely aligned with chemical receptors associated with the same forms of stimulus such as copulatory acts and natural highs. In others words, some humans seem hard wired, to get off so to speak, on getting back at other, or, at the very least, to derive pleasure from it. This though, is one thing the human species must abandon, if we are to survive. For if humans feel good about deliberately doing bad to others, for the bad they did to them, or someone they like, love, or are allied with, then all we will have is constant battle, constant getting back, in a never ending cycle of violence. Only if humans can move beyond the concept of getting back altogether, will we ever survive. Gandhi once said...

“an eye for an eye will make the whole world blind.”

I, for one, love this quote. To me, he has evolved spiritually and philosophically beyond basic human programming to a more enlightened, state of thought, with respect to interpersonal and global geopolitical relationships. How many wars has humanity



fought throughout modern times, that began, with retaliation for something some other kingdom, state/nation, empire, invader, did first? That psychological desire to retaliate, permeated the US decisions to invade Afghanistan following 9/11 and to go all the way to Japan following the attacks on Pearl Harbor. This psychological trait, is the basis for having nuclear weapons, as anyone whom attacks a nuclear armed nation, risks instant, and complete, elimination from the planet, unless they too have a complimentary capability. And it's this understanding, that drives fear into the hearts of all nuclear armed nations, for each one of them truly knows, if war ever came to them, the desire would be there, to go nuclear. And once that 1<sup>st</sup> cloud rises over any target, the human reaction to retaliate in kind, will over rule any higher cognitive thought processes that would say – stop, enough... no more.... One bomb becomes two, becomes three, becomes four, and before the eye even blinks, there is no one left in either state/nation whom have any eyes left, or a body either for that matter, as whatever was matter is converted to energy in a flash.

Given the huge challenges in understanding a simple one sentence, by people whom speak the same language, live in the same state/nation, may be the same age, same demographics, and so on, one wonders then, how anything can ever truly be agreed to on a global geopolitical stage, with absolute certainty. One lesson I learned long ago, was from a friend, as we played a board game – Risk. Everyone knows the idea is to be the sole player left in control of the entire map at the end game. Players can make treaties all they want, break them too, but it's all mostly about armies that fight and die in your or my cause. One time, I was offered a treaty – which reads roughly as follows:

“The hereby undersigned parties agree, to refrain from any current or future combat across all current borders.”

The astute politician and English maven can easily pick up the explicit flaw in the above treaty as written and agreed to by both parties. But while its explicit no future combat (i.e. read peace forever) across current national borders, the implicitness is, that does not hold true for future borders. You can guess how shocked this not yet even a teenager was, when the other party to the treaty, took a 3<sup>rd</sup> players territory next to mine, and then immediately afterwards, attacked into my territory adjacent to it, across a “new” and “non current” border. He held true to the letter of the treaty, yet was able to “cheat.” Nations and states on the real world geopolitical stage do this too. Think back to world war 1, and the post years. Germany was required to dismantle their air force, and never build combat planes again. A loophole was exploited that allowed for mail transport planes, and there began the birth of a new Luftwaffe, stronger than anyone ever thought was permissible. Following the Iraq war in 1991, Saddam Hussein was prohibited from flying military aircraft in combat roles, and fighters and jets were grounded. Yet, a loophole allowed military transport via helicopters to take place, and Saddam Hussein used these helicopters to put down a revolt against his regime in the north and the south.

The issues of differences in opinion on the letter of the law, as to treaties, or other codecs of law, takes place all the time. In fact, this is recognized that by design, there would be issues needing further clarification, when we created a supreme court, to apply interpretation on the constitutionality of law, as applied over time. Were laws specific, exact, unchanging in their meaning and interpretation, than there would be no need for a supreme court, the law itself would be enough.

Time too changes things. More than 4 decades ago, it was all about “mankind’s quest” to come in peace. Today, it would be “humanity’s quest,” a more gender neutral and PC way of including the entire world. Of course, one would only use the word “humanity” if one

actually consciously thought of the differences between “manned” spaceflight versus human spaceflight. If one is not hip to the fact that women now are astronauts and cosmonauts, and have the same dreams to explore that we all do, one might not make the change from man to human. This switch in thought processes, takes place, either on a national level – think it was not until the 70s, that the ERA and NOW came about and pushed for equal rights here in the US. Women in the US only had the official US wide right to even vote less than 100 years ago. Had the Soviets been to the moon, they might have used the word “comrades”, a sort of gender neutral word, or perhaps humankind, given they had put the 1<sup>st</sup> female in space in 1963 I believe, almost 2 whole decades before America’s 1<sup>st</sup> female astronaut Sally Ride went into space. When humanity does return to the moon and moves beyond, the phrase may very well be replaced by the non species centric view of “earthlings” as we may go to explore, with not just humans, but with plants, and other biological necessities of long term survival, and of course, with robots like Robonaut and Dextre, and maybe someday like Hal 9000 and Watson.... Someday, all species on earth may have the greater collective sense of oneness that Gaia gave to each offspring she birthed, either directly, or from our labs. When humans start to not only recognize the equality of each one of us on earth, that will be a lot farther from where we are today, than the days before we had written language, for the intellectual, societal, and cultural leap therein achieved will be far more expansive to the human condition than the advent of writing was.... If we can all just learn to live in peace, equality, and tolerance.

## Interlude

Here in the next section, one will find some of my random thoughts on various thematic issues that plague humanity, locally and globally. These are my own personal opinions, my interpretations of how a world at peace should be. By no means, is the intent herein to do anything other than to stimulate debate on the issues, as opposed to personal attacks on individuals. I have no quarrels with individuals, I only have issues with the policies or actions people perform on the stage of life. Many of the posts focus on recurring themes of love lost and not found since, not having had my own kids, my own personal failures and successes, my sense of humor, and a honest sense that the world can be a better place, without the need for human suffering, if we simply adjusted our policies, thoughts, and speech on the real issues in a humane rather than hurtful manner. Having studied to be a historian at one point in my undergrad experiences, I have a perspective of past lessons that seem to continue to have to be relearned, as well as a love for exploration, and thinking outside the box. To me, the status quo, is not working, as long as one person on earth, is homeless like me, jobless, had no opportunity for an education, go to sleep hungry, thirsty, in fear, imprisonment, or without freedom. The hate and anger of this world can be solved if all 7 billion of us simply said the power of “No.” No, I will not kill those peaceful protesters, no I will not charge more in interest to someone whom has demonstrated they have little ability to pay it back, for they obviously need the help more so, than those whom already have the means to take care of themselves. We have an adversarial arrangement economically, with respect to its all about exploiting and extracting money from people, as opposed to giving money to people – to empower them. And we all sleep, each night on this planet, under the imminent and unknown danger, that we all could be incinerated in an instant if something goes wrong and people pull the nuclear trigger. To me, nuclear weapons represent

the single greatest danger to the human species, more so than any other issue – and if you think we can handle nukes, just look at how many people here and around the world cannot even handle a gun without killing others or worse, themselves – scary shit to me.



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CRYSLIS – LESSONS FROM A LIFE TOO LATE TO FULL LIVE (VOL. 1 VER 2.0)  
A FREE E-BOOK – AUTHORED BY MICHAEL JEFFREY SLEBODNICK



SLEBODNICK

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER 2.0

## DREAMS ARE...

If I could dream a life  
a world without war  
a world without strife  
a world living in peace  
and tolerance  
and non violence  
that would be  
a nice place to live

but were I to dream  
of a world

with you and me  
her soft smooth skin  
her lovely curves  
the gleam in her eyes  
and the smile  
or mischievous smirk  
between her cheeks  
above her jaw  
made by her lips  
pressed gently  
almost wispily  
against my own

to me  
that would be  
and even better place  
to be  
in her arms



## The Light Turns on

### A Hope for the Planet



29 August 2006  
The land beyond the cities  
As it was once known  
To my forefathers forefathers  
Was a land of fear and danger  
Where beasts and wild animals  
Lay in wait  
Where travel was difficult  
And men lurked hidden  
Taking refuge from control  
Or maybe just working  
For some other form

Of dubious value  
The feudal governor  
This place beyond the cities  
Was called the wilderness  
It was a place not fit for men  
It was a place to be taken  
And tamed  
it was a place to grow  
both horizontally  
and agriculturally  
and with that growth  
fueled more people  
and more people  
more demand for stuff  
the wilderness then was looked at anew  
no longer was it a place to be feared  
now it was place for profit  
be it timber  
minerals  
or soil  
the wilderness soon gave way  
to the plow  
the fire  
or the shovel  
soon even the very ground  
was seen as a commodity  
for coal was king  
and my ancient relatives  
worked its seams  
to fuel an economy  
over there  
across the wide ocean  
seemingly far  
yet danger was soon to prowl  
There was a place  
Where there was harmony  
Where man lived not just with nature  
But as an integral part of it

In this place  
Humans and life  
Flourished  
Where each member  
Of the great cosmos  
Knew its part  
With proper respect  
Each member had  
For the roles each other  
Played  
In this vast land  
There was no concept  
That nature was to be tamed  
Or that a profit could be had  
This world view held  
The ideals originally held  
That no one owns the land  
Rather we are part of the land  
And the land is part of us  
And that there should be balance  
Between man and the rest of the world  
That no one should use more than one needs  
Leave some for the birds, the bear, or the bees  
Like thunder from above  
These two worlds collided  
From the other side of the ocean  
The first contact was made  
And this place  
Hasn't been the same  
For from afar  
Those people came  
And they brought their view  
And to them this land  
Was theirs to take  
In the name of God or country  
Or heaven's sake  
When they saw this place  
They were overwhelmed

And were it not for the help  
Of those here before them  
The fledgling nests  
Would soon have been deserted  
These two peoples  
Soon learned to clash  
Not just for war  
But how they thought  
Of this world  
And how it should be sought  
For to those here before  
The alien life  
With ideals of control  
Both physical and governmental  
Seemed to act quite temperamental  
To those new to this place  
How vast and wild it seemed  
A place with timber galore  
And a place to conquer  
And even plunder  
Where the very word of nature  
Soon meant limitless amounts  
Of vast forest and mineral resources  
To be bargained for  
Or worse  
The ever spreading nests  
Like some plague of alien invaders  
Soon covered the land  
And cut down its forests  
For profit motive  
To be shipped overseas  
As payment for taxes  
Over time  
There were more clashes  
For reasons a plenty  
The ones here first  
Soon found they weren't many  
Over a brief time

Less than 9 generations  
The fledgling nests  
Crossed the land  
Where there was once virgin forest  
Whom fell to the new invaders  
There were now fields aplenty  
Of monotypic desolation  
With no biodiversity  
And even less pests  
Soon there was a new word  
For those into lexicons  
Urban sprawl  
Free market economics  
And technological progress  
All three of which  
The forest and prairies they ate  
There was a third view  
Unnoticed by the alien invaders  
But known deep down to those  
Whom lived off the land  
And were here the first  
And that view held  
A disquieting message  
That something was amiss  
In this land once paradise  
Toads had 3 legs  
Bird's eggs were cracking  
Due to DDT and the rest  
Of the farmer's friend  
But no friend to this view  
Was the idea of mans chemistry  
Of lakes gone dead  
Or fish too poisonous to eat  
Of life forms gone extinct  
Of rising temperatures aplenty  
And storms acting as natures sentry  
Causing us to wake up  
And take notice

Of the changes being done  
Not just to the wilderness  
But to man himself  
For the new man  
There are signs everywhere  
Of things gone wrong  
All of his doing  
Be it a hole over your head  
Or dead forests from too much  
Acid in the rain  
Of lakes gone dead  
Or bloomed out of control  
Too much acid or too much nitrates  
And what about the nights  
Do you hear the coyotes  
Yelping in the night  
Asking you to make things right  
The changes are here  
Just ask the hardware store  
When is the last time  
You had to shovel a big snowfall  
And have you noticed  
How soon the flowers pop up  
There are places far away  
That were once wet  
With annual monsoons  
And people slept  
Now those place are dry  
And so too are the dreams  
For there is no more rain  
For planting crops  
And hunger made them wept  
With six ½ billion now  
This planet is abuzz  
The free market is everywhere  
And demand for land  
Is ever going up  
At what price is there to pay



To keep the spread  
While great for the economy  
For us and our kids  
What will be here  
7 generations from now  
what world will be left  
what life there shall be  
for not just you and me  
but for all living things  
for now is the time  
for the two worlds to come together  
not in a collision of force  
rather in cooperation  
for the ones here first  
have much wisdom to teach  
about the earth  
and not just to each other  
but to reach out to help one another  
not just here  
but all over this world  
for what was evident  
to those here first  
is that we are all related  
not just us human beings  
but to the bird, the bee, and the beetle  
we are all connected  
what we do unto others  
we do unto ourselves  
and each time a species dies  
we lose ourselves again  
what cures could be held  
or what part of the web of life  
did that strand just unwind  
for like a ball of twine  
with each unraveling of a strand  
the whole ball becomes unstable  
and soon it collapses  
to be unsustainable



just how much string will it take  
for us to lose each day  
realize our errors  
and soon we must make  
that critical leap  
at which point in this endangered course  
must the bulb turn on  
to do our part  
to save ourselves  
not just for us  
but for the eagle  
now is the time  
before it's too late  
for those here first and last  
to come together  
and pull the switch  
and create in humanity  
that which wisdom has taught us  
to restore the balance  
and learn from those first here  
to them we must hear  
that the end not be near  
if only we make that switch  
to think of our part  
not as rulers of the earth  
but in all actuality  
just a bit part  
that this great place  
has been here long before us  
and can continue long without us  
so we should chose  
to light that bulb  
and turn on the switch  
to care for one another  
and not make war  
but to live in peace  
as part of a greater whole  
of which we are just a piece

at what point now  
will you do your part  
you can begin  
right at home yourself  
by more than metaphorically  
recycle that can  
reuse that paper  
do your part to pollute less often  
to use sustainable practices  
turn down the heat  
drive efficiently  
use less water in the house  
turn off the light  
doing all these things  
or making whatever changes you can  
to save one another  
not just for you or I  
for the gases we produce  
each time we take our hour long commute  
will still be in the air  
long after we're dead  
even a little bit now  
can add up  
and teach your children too  
to conserve and recycle  
and soon you will see  
if we all do our part  
that by turning off the lights  
we have turned on our own light

## What's the Point any more?



there comes a point  
where you wake up  
suddenly  
and realize  
you were alive  
but never really living life  
that happened to me  
some years ago  
right after  
my last chance  
to marry for the 1st time  
and become 1st time parents together  
with the last chick  
I had a legitimate chance  
of doing so  
when it was the  
right time to do so  
and not too late

now  
it's like  
what's the point  
in even being here  
I did not even get a chance  
at my American Dream  
to marry the kind of women I still love  
and start our own family together  
and spend the rest of our lives  
as husband and wife

eventually  
one comes to understand  
that my time  
has come and gone  
and that day here  
is more painful  
than the day before  
to wake up each morning since  
with the kind of women  
I want to wake up next to  
I am not  
going to ever  
change whom I want  
as my wife  
after coming so very close  
so close to having it all  
back when I was in or just after college  
and now  
aside from a few early on  
there really  
is no even point  
to going on  
for I have no desire  
to live a life  
I do not want  
or cannot meet

my needs  
for love  
for my own wife  
for my own family  
the kind  
I used to be able  
to get  
and whom now  
don't even call  
let alone  
shack up  
each day here  
is just another  
day without those I love  
in my arms  
each day  
so why  
should I even consider  
staying  
or waiting  
another useless day  
in an economic system  
I feel  
marginalizes so many people  
on earth  
whom are exploited  
and hurt  
like me  
whom doesn't even have my own place to flop  
and those without food  
all for lack of money  
my life  
seems to be  
the voice  
of the voiceless  
of the dying  
each day  
for freedom

for food  
against money  
and because  
those I love most  
said goodbye  
or  
don't even say  
good morning  
next to me  
or in the shower

## SCHOOL IS....



(photo credit Yahoo.com)

it's all the talk is about  
whether schools  
perform or not  
meet their  
AYP  
all based  
upon students  
and their scores  
on  
some standardized tests  
these tests  
given to all  
take as their approach  
a one size  
fits all  
yet  
anyone whom understand  
education  
who's been a teacher  
or knows  
psychology  
knows  
deep down  
that a one answer  
solution  
is anything  
but a  
real world problem



solved  
but it's more like  
how computers think  
without emotion  
or understanding  
or even compassion  
it's a simple  
5 answer question  
2 completely wrong  
1 sorta close  
1 so off bases its useless  
and the other  
"spot on"  
but in reality  
there is never  
only 1 solution  
I have a problem  
when you tell a student  
this is the only way  
to get  
from A  
to  
Z  
for all that does  
is eliminate  
the individual  
and tends  
to produce  
a common part  
like some factory  
out the door  
whom only knows  
how to  
fill in the bubble  
but give them  
a real life problem  
with real numbers  
instead of the equation

a number where  
the a or b  
should be  
and good luck  
getting that solved  
the whole process  
of standardized testing  
has mad robo machines  
out of human beings  
has made  
memorizers  
and guessers  
not outside the box  
thinkers  
look to Star Trek  
and Captain Kirk  
for the real way  
things should be taught  
for in life  
there is never  
only 1 answer  
but the possibilities  
are limited  
only by our  
own  
stagnate  
imagination  
but if we freed our kids  
from the need  
for testing at all  
then we teachers  
can get back  
to having a learning classroom  
rather than  
mere study preps  
on how to  
fill in the  
bubble



### On Intolerance

**Intolerance is one step away from the holocaust. We must move beyond the old skool thinking of I am superior to you, or my culture is better than yours, or my race or ethnicity is the best (as eugenics sought wrongly to prove in the 1920s), or the primate induced concept of might makes right, or that exploitation of others for profit is moral (not!), or my ideology (read economic system or government) is more valid than yours.**

**Instead celebrate and relish in the diversity the human species has created. Every great religion, system, ideology, beliefs, all started with one person, and only because others were open to their ideas, did ideas and innovations spread. Be open minded to all, and humanity will survive.**

## What am I?

I have voyaged to the new world  
and sailed to other planets  
I have climbed the highest peaks  
and descended into the deepest depths of the oceans  
I have carved monuments out of bedrock in Egypt and elsewhere  
I make music with wood, brass, strings, percussions, and  
electrons/computers  
I painted the walls of caves thousands of years ago  
and paint by light with my DSLR  
we used to be the only tool makers on earth  
we have written stories that make folks cry  
and made people smile at the movies  
we have battled each other for millennia  
for resources, fame, or glory  
we have sacrificed our lives for others  
and gave birth to the next generations  
we have fought for freedom  
and been tyrants and dictators  
we give food to the poor  
and massacred millions in the gas chambers  
we produced power by the atom  
and by the atom we destroyed 2 cities  
we have such hopes and dreams  
and such awful nightmares  
we are human  
and we chose  
each day  
whether to live  
like Hitler  
or Gandhi  
like Jesus  
or the devil  
to march for our rights

like Dr Martin Luther King Jr.,  
or oppress others  
like Israel in the occupied territories  
we honor our agreements  
or drop bombs  
when those papers burn  
we say we come in peace  
with a machine gun strapped to our backs  
we drill to provide water to the poor  
yet demand access to their resources  
all to make a profit  
we let ourselves be ruled  
by whether or not  
we have money  
we are human  
an anachronism  
and the greatest of humanity by far  
is a gorgeous, fertile, soft, loving woman I love that loves me (lol)  
kisses to all those I love that love me



## Alaska

### Tribute to Alaska



I have never known  
a more spectacular place  
where the skies  
are whitish blue  
like cotton candy  
from some  
county fair

the frost  
and snow  
on the trees  
and the ground  
is to Alaskan protrusions  
as moss is  
to Oregonian rainforest

where the snow rabbits  
turn white  
before  
the first snow falls

where there is light  
all day  
in the summer  
and darkness  
during the winter

where the moose  
are bigger  
than the cars  
we think are smart

and the green dance  
of the northern lights  
play on the  
merry-go-round  
of the northern skies

where the roads are like ice

and the truckers  
make the cold dash  
for cash and fame

even that show  
from the UK  
you know  
top gear  
the American version  
had as one of the final episodes  
from last season  
a 4 x 4  
competition  
of which  
my SUV 4 x 4  
envies

although  
I did not find  
the women of my dreams  
there  
I would  
rather be there  
travelling the snowy hillside  
than be here  
where the heat  
can fry an egg  
on the pavement  
in under 3 minutes  
too hot for me  
a dude  
whom loves  
the snow  
although  
the prospect

of over 50 below  
air not wind temperature  
is nothing  
to fart at  
for at that temperature  
the foggy gaseous cloud  
would freeze solid  
like some  
cotton candy cloud

if there were a way  
I'd so rather be there  
on my own free will  
than be here  
trapped  
a hostage and a prisoner  
whose only excuse  
for not being there  
is the bullshit  
lack of money  
that keeps me here  
stewing  
in my own butt's  
sweat

## The answer is biology

I am not an expert on Biology, by any sense of the imagination. I may have had the great blessings from God to have had the chance to instruct biology and bio labs to college and high school students the past 5 years, but my true understanding of the finest details, is, lacking resolution, to say the least! That said, I simply marvel at just how amazing life itself is, and how the building blocks of everything alive, all come from simple chemistry. When one looks at the ingredients of life, one need look no further than the carbon atom as the foundation from which life springs forth. This simple atom, can share or pass ions to make bonds in a great variety of ways and with many different elements. Using atoms of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, and other elements, chemistry comes together to make the parts necessary for sophisticated life to take hold. The process of amino acids forming, are as built into the universe as much as the coming together of gas and dust to form planetoids and eventually planets. The very universe itself then, I believe, much like the concept of earth as Gaia.

When one looks at more complex biology, look to the DNA sequence, and see the remarkable chemistry that unfolds in an amazing dance of atomic nuclei. ATP, RNA, and other messenger are made of molecules that act as copiers of information, in this case, the order of atomic bonds within a given strand of a DNA molecule.

Life is so diverse, and we continue to find evidence for life's ability to survive in elements that decades ago no one thought possible. What a time to be alive, the past few decades, that have allowed for the discovery of extremophiles - simple cyanobacteria and other life forms, that live in extreme environments - be they highly acidic, highly toxic or even radioactive, with or without light as an energy source, and hot or cold environs. It seems that the more places we look, as long as water is present in liquid form, life can take hold if there is a sufficient energy source. We have found evidence of life in the Antarctic, on snow capped mountain tops, living in aquifers and



rock pores deep below ground, in the midst of volcanic chimneys in the Atlantic Ocean ridge system, and many other places.

Now, we have been sending spacecraft to other planets since the 60s, and have found within the past decade and confirmed it, the presence of water on the moon as ice, on mars at the polar caps, in some of Jupiter's moon, and even salty brine coming out of some of Saturn's moons like Enceledus. We have also found recently the 500th planet outside our solar system.

When I was young, no one really knew if other solar systems actually existed, as there had been no actual direct evidence, though many believed (of course) that we could not be the only one! Now, since the late 80s and early 90s, planets have been found by direct and indirect observations of nearby systems. So, it now seems to many planetary geologists and astrobiologists, that planetary systems may be common place. Well duh! If there is enough matter in a given gas cloud to coalesce into a star, then there would be enough also to create planets too. I would imagine that nearly every single star system would have made planets, in the process of creating planets, or destroyed said planets through supernovae explosions.

Astrobiology has sought to answer the age old question - are we alone? One scientific way to deduce this was by using the famous "drake equation," which sought to put a number on how many intelligent lifeforms might exist in a galaxy. But until recently many of the variables that were plugged into the equation were mere guesses, with no direct evidence. Now, we know solar systems may be common as stars themselves. We have also seen evidence that many of these planets revolve around stars within the habitable zone. It seems to me, that life is as basic a building component of the universe as a planet or star is... what is needed is just energy, the right elements to make life, a decent temperature, and perhaps, time.... given the enormity of a galaxy, let alone the entire universe, I believe that Dr. Carl Sagan was absolutely correct when he envisioned a universe teaming with life, and intelligences out there. Life, to me, is as fundamental to the universe, as a planet, star, and galaxy is. The universe is built for life....



## This small planet

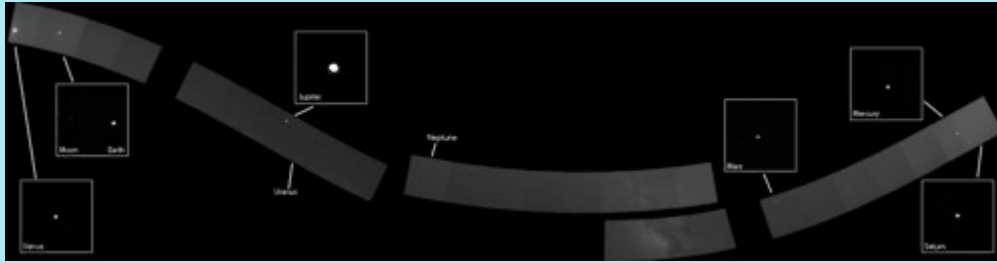


Photo credit NASA

The Earth is such a small world

Why throughout all of recorded history

have humans sought to control it, or the people therein?

When one looks at how small this piece of real estate is in our own solar system, and then realize that perhaps as many as 1/2 of all stars in the universe may have planets, and most systems will have some form of life, then one can see how truly small we are.

It would be far better for the world and for the success of the species, if we did the following:

1 -dump the concept of states and nations as independent organizations, with each one motivated to seek the satisfaction of their own goals, their own self interests, over the greater good of the entire whole of the planet

2 -end all military spending in every part of the world, and turn our knowledge and skill in making weapons that kill, instead focus that technical expertise on making life better for everyone here, and on switching over to green power

3 - dissolve all the militaries of the earth and all their weapons - states and nations are like neighbors in a city.... people only buy guns here to protect themselves from others, out of fear. So, eliminate the access to nations of weapons of war, and introduce a global police force, to protect the citizenry of the world

4 - humans must abandon unsustainable, dirty power and old skool technology. It took less than a decade to go to the moon, it should not take 40 years after the 1st oil crisis to be even more addicted to oil, rather than to have moved completely away from it. Nuclear energy, as envisioned now, is just plain bad idea. The concept of wet reactors, is a falsity, given the requirements that they be kept cool with water or disaster happens. Scientists and engineers need to

think beyond 16th century old skool thinking about using nuke power to produce heat and steam, and realize cold reactors without steam generation, is the way to go for the future. Also, the concept of mega power plants is a bad idea. single point failures affect millions, better to have individual power, distributed to all, so the system degrades gracefully with minimal impact in the event of disaster.

Also, solar power that collects energy only in the form of visible light is one dimensional thinking... given the wide expanse of the electro magnetic spectrum, energy could theoretically be obtained from any form of electromagnetic energy.

8 - humans need to abandon an economic system that creates artificial class system, exploits and controls, rather than liberates people. When 5% of the population controls the bulk of the wealth and resources, this is just not morally the right thing to do. No human should ever be denied something for lack of money. The whole concept of not being able to get treatment for a medical disease, or to get an education, or to travel, or to build a new green device, is to me foolish that humans would allow a piece of paper to prevent the great things from happening.

9 - education and human rights must be protected for all humanity, with the overarching idea of universal rights relating to the concept of “do no harm.” Every human being should be able to obtain education on anything they seek to learn, as life long learners.

10 - the concept of us versus them, of close mindedness and intolerance, must be taught against in every single school. People are not born bigots, they are not born to be intolerant, they learn this behavior, and as such, it is the education system that has the duty to teach this properly.

11 - the world must be unified, and a global world court set up to adjudicate disputes between nation/states, rather than be settled on the battlefield.

## Humor

So here I sit  
stroking the green grass  
the sunshine is bright  
some flies dance around the meal  
and ants parade across the cloth  
towards a basket  
with fruit  
I sit across from her  
and squeeze her hand  
I look into her eyes  
they seem so sad  
she speaks about love lost  
in some yonder world  
some other past  
with tears in her eyes  
so sad does she seem  
so I wrap my arms around her  
and kiss not her lips  
I press them instead  
against the nape of her curving neck  
her soft smooth silk  
tastes so swell  
but even though I kiss  
see still seems sad  
so I roll over onto her  
now on the grass  
and let one lose  
out of my \*ss  
to see her smile  
and to laugh  
was worth the smell  
of the gas

## the gyre

round and round  
the water goes down  
it swirls and it swirls  
what it takes  
you need not know  
but it sure is better  
than in the snow  
or by the side of the road  
or without that wonderful feeling  
of an  
acoustically supreme  
symphonic hall  
to not just  
reverberate  
with each  
stout note  
but to be  
a  
multi media  
cacophony  
of  
sight (tmi)  
sound  
and  
smell  
punctuated  
equilibrium  
with each and every  
toot

## Tuning

we all  
are like instruments  
we all make sounds  
whether it be  
buzz or noise  
click or clack  
chatter or smack  
hate or love  
we all are instruments  
we all make sound  
don't you wish  
all of us in the band  
the band called earth  
could sing in harmony  
with each other  
I believe  
some out there  
most notably the  
haters, those intolerant  
and those whom have so much anger towards others  
need to be  
*tuned*  
to a more  
peaceful  
more noble  
note

I was thinking one day in the merry mery month of... May

I was sitting  
on the can  
one day

it was a chilly  
month of  
May

I huffed  
and I puffed  
but the rock  
would not budge  
I wonder if this  
is what it's like  
to have a child birthed  
I quipped  
as a bit my lip  
and gritted my teeth  
to push out  
the glass  
out my  
you know  
anyway  
after a while  
enough time  
to read a whole book  
in fact  
did you know  
in the days before  
toilet paper  
the catalogs  
those 1,000 page ones  
were used  
before?



anyway  
I do read books  
when I can't seem to go  
the catch word is  
constipation it is  
and no matter how much  
I push  
well  
the story takes  
a foul kind of turn  
when out plops down  
a round smelly sound  
were I inside  
on the can  
it would splash down  
or maybe  
hang ten  
(OMG)  
but I am not  
inside the house  
it's 10 degrees  
in the outhouse  
there is no light  
for me to see  
but with a smell like that  
whom wants to see  
and so I search for my  
lighter  
not for stogies  
for smoking kills  
but instead  
so I can  
see  
how clean I am  
but foolish me  
I forgot  
I ate ham and eggs  
and when you mix

flame  
and gas  
from your  
(you know)  
you get one real loud  
bang  
!  
And out blows  
the door in front  
at least now  
after the blast  
there is no more smell  
and I  
finished at last

Imagine if...



“Imagine if you were God and you had created the universe and populated it with the necessities of life galaxies, stars, and planets and life and you set into motion a plan which lead to humanity and watched the human species and helped guide it with technology inspired from above and the world around and taught of morality or at least how we can all live together imagine how proud god would be of much of the human experience we have explored strange new worlds here on earth and around the solar system we create such beauty in our music or arts and humanities or literature and movies and we have such high hopes and dreams and good people whom help others like Gandhi and King, and Mother Teresa, and Mandela, and others whom bring freedom, dignity, and hope to the collective human soul and yet how would god feel

to see here on earth such anger such hatred for our brothers and sisters here on earth such bigotry and racism such exploitation the concept of conquest of others or of imposition of a new social order a fractionated world

never been at peace and so many hurt emotionally physically sexually mentally hungry thirsty hopeless uneducated unemployed atrocities such as genocide holocaust and nuclear weapons and in constant war with itself

how would you feel if you were god and see all the good humanity has to offer and realize too just how awful humans can be?

God sent to earth thousands of years ago messengers from afar from other worlds to give us hope to tell us we can all live in peace and harmony because god wants good for all his creations how sad must god have been to see his offerings nailed to a tree and hung to die in clear rejection

the human species needs to wake up and stop the violence in our hearts in our minds and in our streets

at our borders over morals over rules over ideology over religion over resources and become the human collective we were meant to be”

Silence..

Silence

Is a crime against humanity

if those in Germany questioned the concept of the holocaust being a  
"solution" to anything  
it never would have happened

If the press had spoken out against the forced marches in the  
prairies  
the trail of tears never would have happened

if scientists and moral thinkers  
had said no to designing and building the bomb  
there never would have been Hiroshima

if a pilot questions his orders  
no bombs would kill civilians

if we asked why we throw out the trash  
rather than recycle it  
the earth would be cleaner

if we questioned why not improve CAFE standards such that by the  
year 2000, every vehicle on earth could have been alternatively  
powered  
we would not be facing economic worldwide disaster when oil  
productions peaks

if we actually believed in a future  
we would not spend foolishly  
and budgets would always be balanced

if we really asked ourselves  
why does it matter if you are a communist  
the cold war never would have been fought

and trillions of dollars and rubbles would have been spent on  
improving life for the world

If humans truly understood  
that all religions are created by humans  
and therefore each religion is as valid as each other religion  
there would be no conflict amongst ideologies

if no human sought to control others  
we'd all live free  
and Hitler never would have come to power

if we all did more listening  
and less dictating to others  
our demands  
the world would be at peace

if we ever really turned our weapons  
into plowshares  
we could feed every human on earth

silence is a crime  
because by not speaking out against such atrocities  
we allow them to continue

anyone whom does not question  
why  
is just as responsible  
as those whom  
do



On war...



***“People Can Start A War: People Can Stop it.”***  
***Written by me 26 may 2011 4:55 pm***

## The problem with any war is – the idea of war itself

So I was at  
the bookstore this week  
there were so many books  
sooo coool to think  
to stimulate the mind  
with someone else's thoughts  
do they think the way I do  
about war  
and peace?  
and then I came  
across the rows  
not just a single shelf  
but entire rows  
from floor to ceiling  
and left to right  
not just one wall  
but 3 walls in sight  
these were all  
one single type of book  
the history and war  
section  
of this  
many  
I passed this  
former study area of mine  
and looked instead  
for books  
on peace  
there was I found  
to my chagrin  
not one wall  
not one row  
not even from floor to ceiling

there were but few  
a handful really  
books  
on peace  
and those whom  
make peace

what does this  
say to you  
or some ET  
about we too  
we humans seem  
to want to read  
more about  
war  
than about  
life  
and peace

## The Way of the Light



**“all the wars on earth, have been fought by people whom believe that we should live in peace and love, yet they go to war and kill each other, anyways, and often claim, erroneously, that God is on their side, for in fact, God is on the side whom wages no war, or if there is war, it is a war on poverty, on famine, and on intolerance, and against hate and violence....”**